

REMARKS

Claims 8-16 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-7 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention and distinguish same from the art of record.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended at portion (c) thereof in a manner which is thought consistent with the Examiner's comments pertaining to this section of the claim. More specifically, this claim portion indicates that the rearward boundary extends away from the forward boundary at an angle from about 1° to about 20° relative to the Y direction. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejection of claim 1 should be obviated.

Also, claim 1 has been amended at subportion (f) to indicate that the removal of the molded part from the mold cavity involves moving the female member away from the male member at an angle of about 1° to 20° relative to the Y direction. This feature originally appeared in claim 4 and finds support throughout the specification. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended for better clarity.

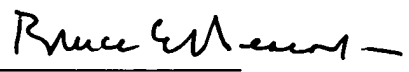
All of the claims stand rejected in light of Yamamoto '962 taken together with Hirose '543. In this regard, the '962 patent discloses only a method wherein the male and female mold members are separated via relative movement of one of the mold parts away from the other along a movement vector perpendicular to the part line 150. The '962 makes no hint or suggest that one of the mold members could be moved away from the other at an angle other than a normal angle from the part line 150. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or teaching in this reference directed toward the specifically claimed angular movement of one of the mold members away from the other.

The same can be said for the disclosure of Hirose '543. Here, the movement of the relative mold members is described, for example, at column 6, line 66 – column 7, line 12. There is no indication in this reference that would teach or suggest that one of the mold members should be moved relative to the other at an angle of about 1° to about 20° relative to the Y direction in a mold cavity.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in proper form for allowance. A prompt and favorable Notice of Allowance is accordingly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if, during the course of reconsideration of this application, any question or comment should arise.

Respectfully submitted,
WEGMAN, HESSLER & VANDERBURG

By 
Bruce E. Peacock
Reg. No. 28,457

Suite 200
6055 Rockside Woods Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44131
216.642.3342

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